

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

SCS-03 SCA-01 OMB-01 AID-20 PC-04 IO-13 CU-04 RSR-01

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R 190530 Z JUN 73

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E. O. 11652: N/ A DECLASSIFY 12/31/74

TAGS: CPRS, CASC, SOCI, AF

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

REF: (A) KABUL 4403; (B) KABUL 4396

1. DEMOLITION OF CHURCH BUILDING PROCEEDING APACE. AS OF P. M. JUNE 18, ONLY STEEL SKELETON REMAINS INTACT, AND WORKMEN UTILIZING CRANE NOW REMOVING GIRDERS AND RIBS. DEMOLITION SHOULD BE COMPLETE WITHIN TWO- THREE DAYS, OR LESS.

2. UNESCO TECHNICIAN WAS TEMPORARILY DETAINED, SOMEWHAT ROUGHED UP, AND FILM CONFISCATED WHEN HE ATTEMPTED PHOTOGRAPH SCENE JUNE 15 OUT OF MERE CURIOSITY. (HOWEVER, PICTURES HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY BEEN TAKEN BY OTHERS IN COMMUNITY .)

3. CBS NEWS TEAM HERE CONCENTRATING ON OBTAINING RGA COOPERATION IN FILMING NARCOTICS STORY AND HOPEFUL OF OBTAINING INTERVIEW WITH SHAFIQ. ALERTED TO RGA SENSITIVITIES ABOUT CHURCH ISSUE, THEY TOLD USIS INFO OFFICER THEY DO NOT RPT NOT NOW PLAN STORY ON CHURCH ISSUE.

4. WE UNDERSTAND CABINET MEMBERS INVOLVED IN DISCUSSIONS WITH
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SHAFIQ JUST PRIOR HIS FINAL DECISION ORDER COMPLETE DEMOLITION INCLUDED MINPLAN SARABI, MININT PAZHWAK, MININFO KUSHKAKI, MINPUBWORKS ZALMAI, AND (SIGNIFICANTLY) EX- DEP PRIMIN SAMED HAMED.

5. CHURCH CONGREGATION MEETING TEMPORARILY AT ITALIAN EMBASSY CATHOLIC CHAPEL. MAY NOT SEEK RETURN TO OLD CHURCH BUILDING IN LIGHT OF OVERALL UNCERTAINTIES. CCC BOARD CONSULTING THEIR LAWYER, DR. SAM TARAHI, ABOUT LEGAL PROCEDURES FOR SEEKING MONETARY COMPENSATION FOR PROPERTY DESTRUCTION. (APPROXIMATELY \$325,000 WAS INVESTED IN BUILDING AND ABORTED PURCHASE OF LAND.)

6. CHARGE MET JUNE 18 WITH BRITISH AMBASSADOR DRINKALL AND GERMAN CHARGE KILIAN. WE AGREED (A) ENCOURAGE CCC BORAD SEEK FINANCIAL COMPENSATION THROUGH LEGAL CHANNELS, (B) BE PREPARED SUPPORT REQUEST THROUGH FORMAL DIPLOMATIC ACTION IF JUDICIAL ROUTE SEEMS BLOCKED, (C) MEANWHILE, URGE SHAFIQ INFORMALLY (AND SEPARATELY) TO OFFER COMPENSATION AND ASSISTANCE IN PROVIDING NEW PLACE OF WORSHIP IN ORDER MINIMIZE OTHERWISE UNAVOIDABLE ADDITIONAL ADVERSE REACTION ABROAD TO RGA ACTIONS.

7. RECOMMEND DEPT RAISE IN PARALLEL FASHION WITH AMBASSADOR MALIKYAR, STRESSING DESIRABILITY OF PROMPT GOVERNMENT GESTURE TO CHURCH WHICH WOULD COUNTERACT INEVITABLE CHARGES OF " RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION." (SHAFIQ HAS REPEATEDLY INSISTED WHOLE ISSUE MERELY ONE OF ILLEGAL LAND PURCHASE AND ILLEGAL CONSTRUCTION, NOT RPT NOT DENIAL OF RIGHT TO WORSHIP.)
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